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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Eleventh session
New York, 6-17 February 1995
Agenda item 7 (a)

MATTERS RELATING TO COMMITMENTS

First review of information communicated by each Party included in annex I to the Convention

Draft conclusions and recommendation submitted by the Co-Chairmen of Working Group I

Conclusions

1. On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee, at its ____ plenary meeting on __ February 1995, agreed on the conclusions regarding item 7 (a) of the agenda set out below.

2. The Committee thanked the interim secretariat, and the experts from countries and organizations that assisted it, for preparing the compilation and synthesis of national communications contained in document A/AC.237/81. It was seen as a fundamentally important document which was useful for discussions at the eleventh session and at the first session of the Conference of the Parties, including the discussion on the review of the adequacy of the commitments set out in Article 4.2 (a) and (b). The preparation of the synthesis document was seen as a promising first step in the review process and a good basis for the in-depth reviews which will begin soon.

3. On the recommendation of Working Group I, the Committee, at its __ plenary meeting on __ February 1995, also adopted recommendation __ on the preparation and submission of national communications from the Parties included in annex I to the Convention and recommendation __ on the review of first communications from the Parties included in annex I to the Convention.

Recommendation

The preparation and submission of national communications from the Parties included in annex I to the Convention

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992,

Recalling also Articles 4.1 (a), 4.2 (b), 4.6, 7.2 and 12 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling further its preparatory work on the review of the first communications from the Parties listed in annex I to the Convention, as reflected in documents A/AC.237/24, A/AC.237/41, A/AC.237/55 and A/AC.237/76,

Taking account of its experience in considering the first communications from Parties listed in annex I to the Convention and the fact that some Parties included in that annex have not yet submitted their communications,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the following draft decision:

The preparation and submission of national communications from the Parties included in annex I to the Convention

The Conference of the Parties, at its first session,

Recalling Articles 4.1 (a), 4.2 (b), 4.6, 7.2 and 12 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Having considered the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change contained in document __,

1. Urges those Parties listed in annex I to the Convention that have not submitted their first communications according to Article 12.5 of the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

2. Requests the Parties listed in annex I to the Convention, except as specified in paragraph 3 below, to submit to the secretariat, in accordance with Article 12.1 and 12.2 of the Convention and with guidelines revised, as appropriate, for the preparation of such communications to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties:

(a) A second national communication, by 15 April 1997;

(b) National inventory data on emissions by sources and removals by sinks on an annual basis, recognizing that for some greenhouse gases and sectors or activities annual data may be less readily available or less relevant; on this

basis, data (where appropriate, updated) for the period 1990-1993 and, where available, for 1994 should be provided by 15 April 1996; data for subsequent years should be provided annually on 15 April, following the same principles;

3. Decides that those annex I Parties required to submit their first communications during 1996, and which do so in accordance with the Convention, may be exempt from the provisions of paragraph 2 (a) above;

4. Decides that, until further review, the guidelines for the preparation of first communications by annex I Parties, as elaborated in the annex to decision 9/2 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (A/AC.237/55, annex I), should continue to be used by annex I Parties in preparing their communications;

5. Requests the secretariat, drawing on the experience in the compilation and synthesis of national communications, to prepare a report on the guidelines for the preparation of first communications by annex I Parties for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation before the second session of the Conference of the Parties, with a view, among other things, to further enhancing the comparability and focus of the communications;

6. Requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, in the context of its work on methodological issues arising from the review of national communications, to consider the use of relevant statistical adjustments;

7. Requests the subsidiary bodies to develop, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its second session, recommendations on guidelines for the preparation of national communications by non-annex I Parties and proposals for the process to consider those communications in accordance with Article 10;

8. Further requests the secretariat to provide a compilation of views on the subject raised in paragraph 7 above that Parties may have transmitted to the secretariat by 30 June 1995;

9. Decides to continue to apply the procedures for the transmission, distribution and translation of communications as elaborated in Committee decision 9/2 (A/AC.237/55, annex I, and A/AC.237/45, paras. 56-66) until new procedures are established before the submission of the second national communications by annex I Parties and subject to a review in 1996 of the financial implications of those procedures.

Recommendation

Review of first communications from the Parties included in annex I to the Convention

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/195 of 22 December 1992,

Recalling also that the Conference of the Parties will, at its first session, review the information communicated by annex I Parties in accordance with Articles 4.2 (b) and 12 of the Convention,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt the following draft decision:

Review of first communications from the Parties included in annex I to the Convention

The Conference of the Parties at its first session,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular Articles 4.2 (a), (b) and (d), 7.2 (a), (d) and (e), 9.2 (b) and 10.2,

Having considered the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change contained in document __,

1. Adopts the statement of purpose of the review process contained in annex I to the present decision and the description of tasks of the review contained in annex II;

2. Decides:

(a) That each national communication 1/ submitted by an annex I Party should be subject to an in-depth review as soon as possible, but within one year of receipt by the secretariat, with the aim of completion by the second session of the Conference of the Parties; such in-depth reviews should be carried out by expert review teams, under the authority of the subsidiary bodies;

(b) That the review teams should be coordinated by a representative of the secretariat and composed of experts selected from those nominated by Parties and, as appropriate, by intergovernmental organizations as described in paragraph 4 (b) below; experts nominated by Parties should, to the extent possible, constitute a majority of each team;

1/ This term includes communications from the regional economic integration organization included in annex I to the Convention.

(c) That the review teams should conduct their work through in-depth "paper" reviews, guided by the purpose and tasks of the review referred to in paragraph 1 above, drawing upon annexes A, B and C to document A/AC.237/63/Add.1; if deemed helpful, visits to clarify the communications, with the prior approval of the Party concerned, might also be useful;

(d) That each review team should produce, under its collective responsibility, a report on each in-depth review of a national communication, written in non-confrontational language, and submit it to the subsidiary bodies; such review reports should be based on the indicative outline contained in annex III to the present decision; they would be approximately 10 pages in length and should include a summary; a draft of the review report should be provided to the Party being reviewed and, as a general rule, revised to reflect any comments the Party might have. Should the Party and the review team be unable to agree on the treatment of a comment, the secretariat will ensure that the comments of the Party are incorporated within a separate section of the summary of the review report; the summary of the review report should be distributed by the secretariat to all Parties and accredited observers to the Conference of the Parties; copies of the full review report will be available on request;

(e) That the subsidiary bodies should consider the in-depth review reports;

(f) To make the necessary arrangements to finance the review process in the budget for the permanent secretariat;

3. Invites:

(a) Parties to contribute to the review process by nominating experts for selection to participate in the review teams and to otherwise assist the secretariat as required;

(b) Parties to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund for the negotiating process to support the implementation of the present decision until the budget of the permanent secretariat is established;

(c) Intergovernmental organizations to make contributions of experts and/or resources, where possible, to assist the secretariat in undertaking the review of national communications under the Convention;

4. Requests the secretariat:

(a) To coordinate and facilitate the review process described in paragraph 2 above, including the organization of the in-depth reviews of individual national communications;

(b) To select, under the guidance of the Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies, the members of the in-depth review teams from among the names provided by the Parties and intergovernmental organizations, ensuring a balance of skills and expertise, of environmental and developmental perspectives and the necessary geographical balance among team members. It should also ensure that such

experts do not participate in reviews of the national communications from their own country;

(c) To prepare, for consideration by the subsidiary bodies and by the Conference of the Parties at its second session, a second compilation and synthesis of first national communications, taking into account available review reports of individual national communications and including, as appropriate, the names of Parties in the narrative text, bearing in mind the facilitative and non-confrontational nature of the process;

(d) To examine means to facilitate the exchange and sharing of information among Parties, including forums in which a general and further analysis of specific and common aspects of national communications could be undertaken.

Annex I

Purpose of the review of first communications from annex I Parties

The review should provide a thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of the implementation of the Convention commitments by individual annex I Parties and annex I Parties as a whole. Its purpose is to review, in a facilitative, non-confrontational, open and transparent manner, the information contained in the communications from annex I Parties to ensure that the Conference of the Parties has accurate, consistent and relevant information at its disposal to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities, which are, inter alia:

(a) To assess the implementation of the Convention by the Parties, the overall effects and cumulative impacts of the measures taken and the extent to which progress towards the objective of the Convention is being achieved (Articles 7.2 (e), 4.2 (a) and (b) and 10.2 (a));

(b) To contribute to the reviews by the Conference of the Parties of the adequacy of commitments and to its decisions on follow-up action (Articles 10.2 (b) and 4.2 (d));

(c) To examine the obligations of these Parties under Articles 4, 5, 6 and 12 of the Convention;

(d) To examine the institutional arrangements under the Convention;

(e) To promote and guide the development and refinement of methodologies (Article 7.2 (d) and guidelines to enhance the comparability and focus of further communications);

(f) To promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties (Article 7.2 (b)).

Annex II

Tasks of the review of first communications from annex I Parties

The review process should undertake six major tasks:

1. Review key qualitative information and quantitative data points contained in national communications.

2. Review policies and measures described in national communications.

3. Assess the information contained in national communications against Convention commitments, and assess the extent to which the progress towards the objective of the Convention is being achieved.

4. Describe expected progress in the limitation of emissions by sources and enhancement of removals by sinks of greenhouse gases, on the basis of information contained in national communications.

5. Describe expected progress in cooperation to prepare for adaptation.

6. Aggregate data across national communications with respect to inventories, projections, effects of measures and financial transfers, but without adding up the individual national totals for projections and the effects of measures.

Annex III

Outline for review reports from in-depth reviews of individual national communications

I. Introduction and summary

- Convention ratification date
- Date of receipt of national communication
- Dates of review and dates of comment period
- Members of the review team
- National circumstances
- Summary and findings
  - * Compliance with guidelines
  - * Review of key data points
  - * Approach to greenhouse gas mitigation

- Expected progress in greenhouse gas mitigation
- Approach to adaptation
- Expected progress on adaptation
- Implementation of Convention commitments
- Summary of comments offered by the Party (when not reflected in the text)

II. Inventories of anthropogenic emissions and removals

- Implementation of Convention commitments
- Approaches used
- CO_2 - review of key data points
- CH_4 - review of key data points
- N_2O - review of key data points
- Other gases - review of key data points
- Emissions from international marine and aviation transport

III. Policies and measures

- Implementation of Convention commitments
- Overview of measures by gas, sector and policy instrument
- Effects of individual measures, where possible
- Policies and measures under consideration or requiring international cooperation

IV. Projections and effects of policies and measures

- Implementation of Convention commitments
- Approaches used
- Review of key data points

V. Projected progress in greenhouse gas mitigation

VI. Expected impacts of climate change

VII. Adaptation measures

- Implementation of Convention commitments

VIII. Financial assistance and technology transfer

- Review of key data points
- Implementation of Convention commitments

IX. Research and systematic observation

- Implementation of Convention commitments

X. Education, training and public awareness

- Implementation of Convention commitments